

(Madison) student newspaper, Bob got a firsthand view of history on a summer trip to Europe in 1963. After embracing the brazen courage of youth to request press credentials from Press Secretary Pierre Salinger, he got to stand 20 feet behind John F. Kennedy as the President declared to Germany and the world “Ich bin ein Berliner,” no doubt sparking a lifelong passion for Democratic politics.

A world traveler, Bob adores spending time in Rome, Italy—his second favorite city behind Portland. On their first trip to the city back in 1983, Bob's wife Barre became so ill, she had to undergo emergency surgery. Spending time in that Roman hospital, surrounded by the constant traffic of generous and caring visitors, the two fell in love with the city and the Italian people, wanting to spend as much time there as they could.

A self-described “frustrated architect,” Bob has been involved in renovating and restoring a number of historic buildings around Portland, including the former Portland police headquarters that was originally built in 1912 and which is where the law firm he founded more than 40 years ago, Stoll Berne, can be found.

It is through that firm that Bob has worked tirelessly, over the course of his long and distinguished legal career, to help others. He has tried over 150 cases—both jury and nonjury cases—in State and Federal courts that cover nearly the entire gamut of criminal and civil law.

But the majority of Bob's cases were focused on large complex financial litigation like securities, antitrust, and class actions in which he fought time and again on behalf of small investors and the less fortunate. All you have to do is look at the class-action suit against Exxon Mobile Corp after the 1989 grounding of the Exxon Valdez supertanker in Alaska's Prince William Sound that resulted in an 11-million-gallon oil spill. Bob led the Oregon State trial team and served on the committee that organized suits filed by more than 32,000 plaintiffs like small business and fisherman effected by the spill.

Bob also stood up for residents of the Fairview Hospital and Training Center when the hospital ignored a statute to continue institutionalizing patients past the age of 18 without reason. He also took up the case of State hospital patients who were left with no financial resources upon release, after the State laid claim to all their Social Security benefits. A former associate justice of Oregon's State supreme court once described Bob in a news article as “a well-grounded, common-sensical legal expert, to the point where people as high up in our system as the governor seek him out for personal counsel on complicated legal issues and political matters.”

And, as the long-time vice chair of Oregon's Democratic Party who got his start in politics running Lyndon John-

son's 1964 Presidential campaign in the State, Bob has indeed been an incredible source of political counsel and leadership to so many. Among his many achievements on behalf of the Democratic Party is launch of the informal Oregon Progressives group that transformed Oregon politics by building out civic engagement infrastructure like robust voter files and supported new organizations that brought stakeholders together around a shared agenda, especially on things like ballot measures.

But Bob's contributions to our State and to our country have gone far beyond his legal career and his political work. A strong believer in giving back to the community, Bob has regularly provided legal services to poor and minority communities, helped mentor “at risk” children, and served on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's first Consumer Advisory Board, where he championed ordinary Americans dealing with the powerful financial services industry.

On top of all that, he has also poured himself into the work of finding solutions to the homelessness crisis that has plagued our State, especially Portland. He has helped raise the financing for the construction of temporary transition shelters, like Harbor for Hope's River District Navigation Center under the Broadway Bridge, and inspired Portland State University's Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative to conduct a far more accurate and in-depth report on the scale of the homelessness crisis over a single year. Bob's most visible work in this area, though, is as a board member of Here Together, a coalition of service providers, business leaders, elected officials, leaders from communities of color and faith, and community advocates who all refuse to believe that homelessness in our community is an unsolvable problem. In this role, Bob helped craft and pass a regional supportive housing services ballot measure which targets the root causes of the problem through a dedicated funding source to pay for mental health, addiction and recovery services, case management, housing supports, and other proven solutions to the complex challenge of chronic homelessness.

The website for his firm, Stoll Berne, has this to say about Bob: “If our lives are only half as full as Robert's has been, we will all feel as though we have lived a life and a half.” As we look back on and celebrate Bob Stoll's 80th birthday, I cannot think of anything more fitting to describe this great legal and political son of the Beaver State. And I join all those who have paid tribute and have sent their affections and best wishes in honor of this special occasion.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SILAS BROWN IV AND RECOGNIZING JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to honor and commend Mr. Silas

Brown and the teachers, faculty, and staff at Jones Elementary School in Bremen, GA. This year, the U.S. Department of Education recognized Jones Elementary School as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2022. The National Blue Ribbon award honors schools for overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups, demonstrating that all students have opportunities to achieve their maximum potential. Only six Georgia schools won this prestigious award in 2022, demonstrating the unique achievements of Mr. Brown and the entire team at Jones Elementary School.

Jones Elementary School's curriculum is rooted in fundamental areas of education, introducing students at early ages to reading, writing, art, music, physical education, and STEM and preparing our next generation to become leaders in our communities and country.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to commend Principal Silas Brown and Jones Elementary School for this distinguished honor.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KORNISHA MCGILL BROWN

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to honor and commend a great champion for families in Georgia and nationwide, Kornisha McGill Brown, an esteemed member of the Columbus, GA, community, serves as the 27th national president of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, an organization committed to nurturing future leaders in the Black community. Born and raised in Georgia, Ms. McGill Brown has dedicated her personal and professional life to supporting children and families across the State, working as a public school educator, philanthropist, and youth professional development leader over the course of her career.

She also dedicates her time to several service organizations in her community, including serving on the Board of for the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Chattahoochee Valley and as a member of the Columbus chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Ms. McGill Brown is a graduate of Spelman College and the University of Georgia, where she earned her bachelor of arts in political science and masters of education degrees, respectively.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to recognize Kornisha McGill Brown for her steadfast commitment to our Nation's youth and her lifetime of service.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MANDY CARTER

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to honor and commend Mandy Carter, a first-grade teacher at Waynesboro Primary School in Burke County. Ms. Carter has spent the last two decades enriching the lives of young students in Georgia. She has worked as a preschool, kindergarten, first grade,

and third grade teacher. Since first graduating from Georgia Southern University with her bachelor's degree in early childhood education, Ms. Carter has dedicated her life to teaching and sharing her passion for reading with her students.

Earlier this year, my team visited Waynesboro Primary School and met Ms. Carter, whose positive attitude, passion for teaching, and motivation to help young people thrive were clear.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to recognize Mandy Carter for her unwavering commitment to Georgia's children and her two decades of teaching.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. DANIEL SIMMONS

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to honor and commend a pastor and a public servant who is a pillar of the Albany, GA, community. Dr. Daniel Simmons accepted the call to serve as pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, GA, in 1991. Under his and First Lady Diane's leadership, Mount Zion has seen significant growth and has contributed to the community's success.

Pastor Simmons has championed efforts to give back to the community, hosting food drives for the hungry, donating supplies to special needs classrooms and senior homes, paying off mortgages, and more. Pastor Simmons is no stranger to Albany, earning his bachelor's degree from Albany State University before earning his master's from the University of Georgia and his doctorate of ministry from Bethany Theological Seminary in Dothan, AL.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to commend Pastor Dr. Daniel Simmons for his lifetime of service and more than 30 years leading Mount Zion Baptist Church.●

#### RECOGNIZING COTTINGHAM HARDWARE

● Mr. PAUL. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Cottingham Hardware of Alexandria, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

All across the Nation are American small towns whose Main Street businesses bring color and vibrancy to their community. These businesses might be stores that occupy a specific niche or may be the product of one entrepreneur's dreams turned reality. Many of these businesses however, are simply shops that the community has come to rely on, with a top-quality product or service that keeps their customers coming back. Such is the case for Alexandria's Cottingham Hardware, also referred to as Cottingham Ace, that was founded in 1957. This hardware store has been faithfully serving its

customers for 65 years, easily cementing the business as community institution.

Sixty-five years ago, Tom and Betty Cottingham opened Cottingham Hardware, a hardware store right in the heart of the little town of Alexandria, KY. Since its inception over six decades ago, the store has been dutifully serving its customers, offering them whatever hardware goods they might need, including but not limited to, specialty chrome, electrical lighting, as well as lawn and garden tools. The store also carries a large selection of firearms and ammunition, making the shop especially popular during northern Kentucky's busy hunting season. In addition to the wide array of products available for purchase at Cottingham, the store has two mechanics who are always available to meet the needs of customers, with both mechanics having received the proper training and certification to handle practically any job. They boast a selection that is appropriate for all types of customers, whether they be a first-time homeowner or the owner of multi-acre properties; they have the products and services to help with any project.

Started by a married couple, Cottingham Hardware continues to be a family business. Tom and Betty's three sons practically grew up in the store, so it would only make sense that the three men choose to perpetuate their parents' dream and run the store with the same dedication and customer-friendly atmosphere that Tom and Betty created. The three sons, Tom, Mike, and Joe, took over the business in the mid 90s, roughly a decade after Cottingham Hardware moved from their original location right in Alexandria out to U.S. Highway 27. The three brothers led the business through a vast array of modernizations, opting for computerized systems in place of the original manual inventory and registry systems. Today, Cottingham Hardware can easily locate a necessary piece of machinery as it travels along the supply chain before arriving at their store. The Cottingham men understood that to lead their parents' business into the modern era requires these types of technological advancements, and they make sure Cottingham Hardware stays on the cutting edge of modern computer equipment.

In addition to their eye for key modernizations to the hardware store, the Cottingham brothers understand that their parents' success was due in large part to their dedication to family values. Tom, Mike, and Joe maintain a strict policy that at least one of the Cottingham brothers is in store at any given time during business hours, all 7 days a week. Friends and neighbors are constantly coming through their doors to purchase tools or equipment and to visit with the familiar faces of the Cottingham store. These days, even the brothers' children occasionally work with them in store, entering in to a new generation of Cottingham family

leadership. Moreover, Cottingham Hardware maintains their dedication to the Alexandria community, as they often participate in donations for local schools and churches. Additionally, Joe Cottingham is a member of the Northern Kentucky Area Development District—NKADD—representing Campbell County. NKADD strives to achieve sustainable economic growth and improve the overall quality of life for the citizens of Kentucky. Clearly the Cottingham family is dedicated not only to running a successful family business, but to championing and supporting small businesses around the State as well. For that reason, it gives me great pleasure to honor this multi-generation family business as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Congratulations to the Cottingham brothers and the entire team at Cottingham Hardware. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM CONDOS

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor Jim Condos of South Burlington and Montpelier, VT. Jim is retiring as Vermont Secretary of State after more than 35 years in public service.

A lifelong Vermonter, Jim has served his community at multiple levels of government. After 18 years as a South Burlington city councilor, he went on to represent Chittenden County in the Vermont State Senate. In 2010, Jim was elected secretary of state, a position that he has held for the past 12 years. During his tenure, Jim has been recognized as an expert on election administration and has served in such roles as president of the National Association of Secretaries of State, a member of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors, an executive board member for the Council of State Government, and the national cochair of the Overseas Voting Initiative for Military Personnel and Overseas Citizens. Jim has also been called upon by Congress to share his expertise, specifically on voting and election cybersecurity.

Thanks in large part to Jim's leadership, Vermont is widely considered a leader in voter access. At a time when the right to vote is being curtailed in many States, Jim and his team have expanded Vermonters' access to democracy through same-day registration, automatic voter registration, online voter registration, ADA-accessible voting, universal vote-by-mail, and ballot dropboxes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jim's office implemented safe voting options so that Vermonters did not need to choose between their health and their right to vote. His pro-voter policies also led to record-shattering voter turnout, for both early and total voting, in the 2022 midterm and 2020 Presidential elections. This work has all been done while ensuring the integrity of elections through election